



The Communiqué

April
2010

The Anglican Church Of India (Affiliated To The Worldwide Traditional Anglican Communion)

“BUT NOW IS CHRIST RISEN FROM THE DEAD,
AND BECOME THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THEM THAT SLEPT,
FOR SINCE BY MAN CAME DEATH,
BY MAN ALSO THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD,
FOR IN ADAM ALL DIE,
EVEN SO IN CHRIST ALL BE MADE ALIVE”
(1 Cor. 15: 20 -22)

BIBLE STUDY

*But speak thou the things which become sound Doctrine
(Titus 2: 1)*

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE

There are many honest enquirers wanting to know Christ – not by hearing mythology, but as “Sir we would see Jesus” – to understand through one’s own experience. To such, any teacher owes to teach as such, with God’s help. This is the background for this study.

We do have many Scholars, and many books to make Christ known but it requires equally a scholarly mind to understand. Hence attempts are made to make it simple, for everybody to understand.

By the grace of God, many, being born of God fearing parents, of the lineage of servants of God, and brought up in a truly Christian environment, with the knowledge, the tradition, sincerity and effort, still do not have the capability to convince others of their convictions, or the practice of the same. They do not have a clear perception. For many the goal posts in life changes from reality to seemingly reasonable ones (aberrations) particularly when many of the youth are away with unbridled independence from parents, and having the freedom to be in company with others, for studies and for earning etc.

The knowledge, the tradition, sincerity and effort gained are there, but that could not protect them from the changes. So mere knowledge without understanding in the heart, does very little in one’s life.

But by the grace of God, things do change in one’s life, if one were made to meditate on knowledge gained during Childhood days and this coupled with the association of God fearing pastors and teachers guiding them to practice, what was revealed, and as to what God expects each one to do.

Then, acknowledging God and going down on knees, and studying of the word of God, meditating, sharing the word of God, becomes the priorities. With God’s help, planning to build, expecting the probabilities and to live up to the calling, would become the regular exercise, if taught to be practiced as such.

Hence, putting more stress on the need to get taught of

the proper background for practice is first to be attempted for the study. As a matter of practice, the preparations and exercise for study and meditations, would be enhanced if, whatever is felt in the heart as important, is first jotted down in writing, and afterwards compiled in proper order. Truly God doth prepare a Man, and even now by the grace of God, attempts to practice and persuade others to practice is practically feasible.

Yes including those who read this, as they are also called by name, by God! Proclaiming the gospel is every one’s duty, and to be an ensample (Witness) are commanded of God.

It is the wish and prayer, that by God’s mercies and by reading through this, all the youth with aberrations like what had happened in their lives, may be brought back to realities, that is, understanding the presence of Christ in one’s own life! The Blessing Youth Mission expresses biblical standards of a youth as one of age up to 90 years. So this is for all, of all ages, with no exceptions, to practice and lead others to understand Christ. *(To be continued)*

This is part of a series proposed to be continued in the ensuing publications.

UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Blessed is the man But his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night (Psalm 1: 1, 2)

It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (Math. 4: 4)

CATECHISM

Catechism means summary of main ideas, beliefs of religion and hence instruction in Christian values, is meant for remembrance and for adoption in practical life. It’s not a myth, nor a high sounding philosophy not practically workable, but down to earth a profitable and practicable life style for any one to achieve. Bible is the word of God and hence all instructions and commandments in it are proper, complete and adequate.

Chapter1. PRACTICALITY OF THE BIBLE

Introduction: - In these knowledgeable days, advanced technology is made use of for any execution of a project. Basically, scientific knowledge (facts, figures, data) is applied (analyzed) for profit (directions, guidelines) and after finding its feasibility (practicality), execute it, to get desired (forecast) results (productivity). In all such endeavors, mathematics and logic are applied for verifications. In the same manner, all instructions of the bible could be verified for its practical adoption in our day to day life. Hence following God’s commandment is practically feasible for our blessedness.

Knowledge of the Bible, provides direction for action, and

analysis of such instructions for profitability provides the desire to accomplish, and acting on the same culminates in bearing fruits. Inspired of God, King David explains the above in Psalm 1. *“Blessed is the man, that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf shall not wither and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper”*. Here knowledge is, the law of the lord, analysis is, by way of meditating day and night, directions is, by not walking, standing, nor sitting, but production is, by bringing fruit in his season. Feasibility is (God’s grace) planted by the rivers of water, his leaf shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. Profit is, blessed is the man! Have you ever attempted like King David? Meditate on God’s words.

Delight leads to deeds: -- If one were to proceed ahead, one should try the tips given by King David. Get delighted in the law of the Lord! That is to say, put your heart and soul and get delighted. The Bible says *“For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it.”* (Isa. 55: 10, 11) It also says *“Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.”*

“I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear” (Isa. 45: 22, 23) So God’s word has objectives (God’s will) and it surely will act and achieve! It will lead you to deeds, and blessedness, provided your heart’s delight is in it.

Knowledge provides direction for action: - Bible says *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works”* (2 Tim. 3: 16)

Doctrine (teaching), reproof (chiding), correction (to set in order) and instructions (guidelines) in righteousness, go into the making of the life (every day walk of life) of a man of God, the end objective being that he may be perfect and be able to do good works.

Doctrine:- This term refers to the act of teaching, and the manner of it (teaching) and the contents or the matter (subject) of teaching, or in simple terms, who taught, what and in what manner. Bible refers to various doctrines, such as (A) Doctrine of God, (1 Tim. 6: 1) (B) Doctrine of Christ (2 John 9, 10) (C) Doctrine of the Apostles (Acts 2: 42) (D) Doctrine of the Devils (1 Tim. 4: 1-3) (E) Doctrines of Men (Math. 15: 9, Col. 2: 4,18, Heb 13: 9, Titus 1:14) (To be continued)

As part of exercise, readers are requested to read all the quoted verses along with the relevant passages in the Bible, and find out the logic and mathematics in them. Muse and remember as to who, taught what, and in what manner, and

to whom.

MEDITATION

“BUT NOW IS CHRIST RISEN FROM THE DEAD, AND BECOME THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THEM THAT SLEPT, FOR SINCE BY MAN CAME DEATH, BY MAN ALSO THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD, FOR IN ADAM ALL DIE, EVEN SO IN CHRIST ALL BE MADE ALIVE” (1 Cor 15 : 20 -22)

We do know that the first man Adam, was the son of God. That was his state (Luke 3: 38) and he enjoyed God’s presence (fellowship /communion) He disobeyed Gods commandment and had died spiritually and his standing was changed. He lost

1. the image of knowledge of God (1 Cor. 3: 10)
2. the righteousness and true holiness (Eph 4: 24),
3. the image of His son (Rom 8: 28)
4. the image of the heavenly (1 Cor. 15 : 49)
5. the image of the glory of God (2 Cor. 3: 18)

Thus he lost the eternal life and lost the image of being the son of God. He was afraid with guilt (Satan’s accusing presence was there) and had to be away from the presence of God)

The effect of sin on man

Separated from the presence of God. “sins have hid his face from you that he will not hear.. So sin is a barrier between God and man (Isaiah 59: 2)

1. “unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor. 6 :9)
2. By one man, sin entered into the world and death by sin. And so death passed upon all men (Romans 5: 12)
3. “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)
4. “because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience” (Ephesians 5 :6)
5. “cursed is the ground for thy sake in sorrow thou shalt eat of it (Gen. 3:17)
6. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread. (Gen. 3 :19)

Man instead of just enjoying the fruits of creation and because the abundance in food sources were not there as before, had to toil to get his food, and understand and humble himself before God. (Deut. 8: 4)

The unchanging God

The provision for redemption was made before the creation of the world, that is before man came into being, the loving God did the redemption work, (Isa. 14: 24, 26, 27, Eph. 3:11) Further “All things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made (John 1: 3) All things were created by him, and for him.... And by him all things consist (being sustained) (Col. 1: 16, 17)

Hence the everlasting God called Adam, and restored him in his presence. God’s mercies sustained him from immediate punishment, Blood had to be shed (as ransom-paying the price for life), to clothe him with coats of skins (Gen 3: 21), thereby, he was made to appear as righteous before God even

though he was a sinner. The sins in him continued and therefore by one man, "sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that we have all sinned (Rom 5: 12). "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Rom 3: 24)

God's Salvation to sinful man

God's intention of providing for salvation and redemption of man was in effect to bring back to the original status (Reconciliation) that was enjoyed by man in the presence of God. 2 Cor. 5: 19 reads as "To wit that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them, and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation" In 1 Cor. 15: 3 it is revealed as "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures" In Romans 5:8 we read as "While we were yet sinners Christ died for us" In Romans 5 :9 we read as "Much more then, being now justified by his blood we shall be saved from wrath through him"

In Romans 5: 10, 11 we read as "For, if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life and not only so but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ by whom we have now received the atonement" (Fellowship – Communion) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his son (Rom 8: 29).

In 1 Peter 1: 21 "Who by him do believe in God that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory, that your faith and hope might be in God"

So from the foregoing one should clearly understand in his heart, that Jesus Christ washed all the effects of sin on man, and that all these were, for man to have faith and hope in God. So as coheirs with Jesus Christ, one has reconciliation with God, forgiveness of sin, eternal life, joy in the presence of God and to partake of his glorious presence

All die, All be made alive – Life style on earth

"Knowing this our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Servants of Sin) "Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth he liveth unto God Like wise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom 6: 6, 9 - 11)

And have put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him (Col. 3: 10)

And our Lord Jesus Christ declared before the Father saying "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one." (St John 17: 22)

So what is needed is "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace, because the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be" "Therefore brethren we are

debtors not to the flesh, to live after the flesh for if ye live after the flesh ye shall die, but if ye through the Spirit mortify the deeds of the body ye shall live (Rom. 8: 6 -7, 12, 13)

The Scripture teaches us not to grieve the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4: 30). He also Promised the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, if we ask for it (St Luke 11: 13). He also commanded that we should wait till we are endued with the power on high Our Lord Jesus Christ commanded us to watch and pray (Math. 25: 13).

Do we remember all these, whenever we want to have communion with God ? In all our life styles, do we mortify our members of our bodies and are we spiritually minded, that is led of the Spirit?

WORSHIP

I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy, and in thy fear will I worship toward thy Holy Temple" (Psalm 6: 7)

LIVE WITNESS

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven (Math. 5: 16)

The Bishop visited Mrs. Jean Johnson, aged 81, having Cancer, but refusing medical treatment, and heard her message, just before comfortable Words and prayers were offered. "The Lord knows (my state), and I have lived my life (of being a Blessing to others, including the Memorial Church Bangalore), and am ready (eager to meet my God), only these (all near and dear ones, including ministers) are perturbed." Her firm "State" versus our "Standing" requires serious thoughts regarding our witness. After about a month after this incident she passed away to Glory.

Note: - Those inserted within brackets, in between her message is as perceived by the Bishop

OUTREACH

"Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone astray from mine ordinances, and have not kept them Return unto me and I will return unto you saith the Lord of hosts " (Malachi 3: 7)

"Love thy neighbour as thyself"

The members of Memorial Church Anglican Whitefield Bangalore, under their outreach programme "BE THE MIRACLE" were able to provide firstly with a backup power system and subsequently a biogas plant to the Cottolengo Convent who run an orphanage and school for destitute and challenged children. They also give them an annual sustenance support.

INFORMATION

Synod of Bishops Meet

On 04.02.10 the Synod of Bishops of the Anglican Church of India met at Bangalore It was presided by the Most Reverend Samuel P Prakash Arch Bishop, and Bishops Patrick Hosea, Samuel Thangaraj Ponniah, Rockes Sandhu, Lukose C Varghese, and Kuruvilla C Puthett. Bishop James Lal had been away in U.K and so could not attend. They considered the letter received from Cardinal Levada from Vatican City

regarding unity of the Anglican Church with the Roman Catholic Church. The Apostolic Constitution and the complimentary norms were discussed. The preserving of the Traditions and Liturgy of Anglicanism, under the present suggested norms required detailed understanding of issues and also the safeguards for its preservation. The points raised were proposed to be discussed during the proposed Synod meeting after Easter tide, of all the Traditional Anglican Communion.

Anglican Church Periodical

It was also decided to have a periodical issue for the Anglican Church of India, for which Bishop Patrick Hosea and Samuel T Ponniah were requested to do the needful. This being the first issue, it has its own limitations and infirmities. Good counseling is welcome

General Council meetings

It was decided, God willing, to have the General Council meetings of the Anglican Church of India, during end September and October 2010 at Bangalore

Preparations for General Council Meetings

In pursuance of the decision to have the General Council meeting at Bangalore, the Madras Diocesan Council managing committee nominated a committee for the same and it met on 10.03.10 and considered the various options of Venue, and related arrangements to be made with estimated cost. The Bishop has since brought these to the kind attention of all the Bishops, and to the preliminaries that are to be executed in each of the Diocese like electing of representatives for attending the General Council meeting and furnishing of the information regarding the conduct of its business. These are to be finalized before end of June this year.

Inter dependence and unity

As per declaration 8 & 10 of the Constitution Canons and Rules of the Anglican Church of India , the four Bishops namely Right Reverend Patrick Hosea, Samuel T. Ponniah, Lukose Varghese, and Kuruvilla C Puthet met on 15. 09 .09.

The latter three have been meeting often, as and when occasion arose during the visits to T & C Diocese by Bishop Samuel T Ponniah. The Bishops agreed in principle to have unity in all its efforts for development, and also to share ministering by the Clergy in case of urgency or necessity irrespective of the jurisdiction. Now that Reverend Father Joseph David of T & C Diocese has been hospitalized and advised complete rest for 6 months, the Priests of Madhya Kerala and Malankara Diocese have been carrying on of ministry as per local requirements.

Convention Meetings

It has been decided to have Convention meetings on the 18th 19th and 20th of April at Cathedral Church Nattokom. All the three Bishops and their clergy would be taking part in the same

The readers are requested to have the above in mind and to pray for those who are to be sustained in intercessory prayers, and for God's guidance and grace

Readers are informed that copy of the Bible Study and

Catechism could be furnished at request, for filing as their personal record for future reference . and also to others for their edification But we require the feed back

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FEED BACK

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To defend the Christian Faith defined in the Holy Scriptures and as enshrined in the Book of Common Prayer

To work for the unity of the Church under Christ, based on sound Doctrine and discipline as exemplified by the Chicago – Lambeth Quadrilateral of 1886 - 88

To restore the Church to her primary mission of proclaiming the Gospel

GENERAL PRINT POLICY

Contribution of articles under the given heads of topics are welcome. The Directors reserve the right to print, all or part, or in any changed manner as it deems fit for them. Contributions by way of donations or in kind for printing publishing and mailing are welcome. They may be sent to the Secretary / Treasurer MDTA Fund of ACI, Canara Bank A/c No.0684101030814 Lal Baugh West Bangalore 560 004 under intimation.

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